

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /096 W

----- 082308

R 241356Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHZD 3807

INFO AMCOHDUL CAQK TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0128

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT LT

SUBJ: BCP FUGITIVES HEARD FROM

REF : MASERU 61 AND PREVIOUS

1. RADIO LESOTHO BROADCAST FOLLOWING AFTERNOON JAN 23: "A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER HAS STATED THAT USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT THAT SOME OF THE SUSPECTS IN THE RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING ATTACKS ON POLICE STATIONS IN LESOTHO WERE ARRESTED AT FICKSBURG IN SOUTH AFRICA. AMONG THE SUSPECTS WERE KOENYAMA CHAKELA AND GAUDA KHASU, WHO WERE LATER SEEN TO BOARD A TRAIN IN BLOEMFONTEIN AND THE LATEST REPORTS ARE THAT THEY ARE NOW IN BOTSWANA. IT IS ALLEGED THAT THE FOLLOWING SUSPECTS, CHAAKE PUTSOA, MOKHABELA AND MAPEFANE ARE STILL BEING HELD IN FICKSBURG. IT IS FURTHER ALLEGED THAT THE SUSPECTS IN BOTSWANA HAD PURCHASED THEIR RELEASE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF PUTSOA, MOKHABELA, AND MEREFANE ON THE BASIS THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED TRAINING IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES."

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2. SABC REPORT HEARD HERE JAN 22 HAD IT THAT TSELESO MAKHAKHE

(BCP VICE PRESIDENT) JAD MOFELEHETSI (BCP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER) JED J. LIAU HAD SURFACED IN BOTSWANA WITH INTENTION SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM.

3. THERE ARE STILL NO SERIOUS REPORTS OR RUMORS ON WHEREABOUTS NTSU MOKHEHLE.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ASSESS ACCURACY OF THESE REPORTS BUT SUSPECT THEY BASED ON TRUTH. REPORT OF APPEARANCE OF BCP FUGITIVES IN FICKSBURG, ACROSS BORDER FROM AREA WHERE POLICE POSTS ATTACKED, CONSISTENT WITH GOL ALLEGATIONS SOUTH AFRICA BEING USED AS REFUGE. GOL ALSO GAVE PLAY TO EARLIER TALE THAT TWO SENIOR BCP FUGITIVES SEEN IN LADYBRAND, SOUTH AFRICAN TOWN NINE MILES FROM MASERU. EXPECT GOL WILL CONTINUE SEIZE ON SUCH ACCOUNTS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE TO SATISFY CONCLUSION ON SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. REPORT OF POSSIBLE ROLE FOR BOTSWANA MORE TROUBLESOME AND WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CURRENT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTSWANA AND LESOTHO IF BOTFOANA GRANTS ASYLUM TO BCP REFUGEES.

5. ADDRESSEES MAY RECALL BCP NATIONAL CHAIRMAN KHASU LISTED PREVIOUSLY AS HAVING SURRENDERED. ABOVE ANNOUNCEMENT AND OTHER REPORTS ON KHASU INDICATE EARLIER GOVERNMENT REPORT OF HIS SURRENDER FALSE.
HAUGHT

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